DOD DRAFT/12 Aug 87 SPACE STATION DEMARCHE

The United States continues to believe that the collaboration of democracies in an International Space Station Complex will serve the collective interests of the participating states as a symbol of our shared values and as a means toward achieving great strides in science and technology.

Our representatives have engaged in lengthy negotiations and are progressing toward agreement on a large number of technical and procedural provisions. However, as we enter the final stages of negotiations, the United States is concerned that certain fundamental issues remain unsettled. On these issues, the U.S. has reached the limits of its ability to modify the meaning and text of key provisions in order to further address the substantive concerns and political sensitivities of its negotiating partners. In particular, the United States will not enter into an agreement which fails to clearly establish our role as overall Space Station manager, or does not explicitly provide that we will be able to conduct national security uses of the Space Station elements that we provide, subject only to the constraints of international law as we determine them to apply.

With the start of Phase C/D in mid-November 1987, we will begin the detailed design and development of the core Space Station. As was made clear during the most recent round of talks, we must complete our negotiations on the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and the Agency-level Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by early October in order to continue multinational participation in the program. To achieve that goal, we are now engaged in nearly continuous negotiations with each of the partners.

It is our intent following the coming September round of talks to prepare a final draft to be initialed by all the participating delegations at the conclusion of a multilateral meeting during early October. There is much detailed work to be done in developing final language, but such an effort cannot get under way in earnest without agreement on fundamental principles. We look forward to a clear understanding on those principles and a successful next round of talks. At the same time, we are determined to proceed with the Space Station program on schedule. If we cannot reach agreement with our negotiating partners within that schedule, we will proceed on a unilateral basis.

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